

are seventeen bony rings between the pectoral fin and the root of the tail. The spines are of three kinds: 1. The band-bearing spines are the strongest, strongly compressed, not flexible, each terminating in a pair of short points. There are one pair of these spines in the middle of the back, and one on each of the three prominences of the abdominal outline; the flaps are long and bifid. 2. Very long, compressed, and somewhat flexible spines, without appendages; these occupy in pairs the uppermost part of the back, and in a single series the median line of the belly. 3. Small, short, conical spines run in single series along the median line of the sides, and along the lateral edges of the belly; a pair of similar spines in front of the lower part of the base of the pectoral fin.

Tail quadrangular, with sharp edges, and with five pairs of band-bearing spines along its upper side; its end is slightly prehensile.

P. 20. D. 37. The dorsal is situated entirely on the tail.

The specimen, being dry, has lost its original colours, which were probably red during life. The iris is crossed by radiating streaks; and several other streaks (of a whitish colour) radiate from the eye over the opercles and the upper part of the head.

There is no doubt that these fish attach themselves with the prehensile end of their tail to stems of seaweed or other objects; and when they are in the vicinity of seaweed of a similar colour, their resemblance to it must be so great that they would easily escape being observed by their enemies. The figure of *P. eques* (Plate XV.) is of the natural size.

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April 11, 1865.

Professor T. H. Huxley, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

Dr. Crisp exhibited a drawing of the placenta of the Giraffe lately obtained from the Society's Gardens. It weighed  $13\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., and contained 156 cotyledons. Dr. Crisp said that the cotyledons of the Ox and Sheep were said to number from 70 to 100. In the placenta of a Dorcas Gazelle (*G. dorcas*) he had counted only 30; so that probably the Giraffe had a larger number than any other of the ruminants.

Dr. Crisp also exhibited a drawing of the Aard-Vark (*Orycteropus capensis*). He had obtained the animal in the flesh; and the drawing was placed before the Society to show the enormous muscular power of this quadruped, especially in the tail and in the extremities. The weight of the body was about 90 lbs. Dr. Crisp purposed bringing the anatomy of the Aard-Vark before the Society on a future occasion.

The following papers were read:—